

Tena Koutou Katoa - Greetings to all parents and caregivers

Kia Ora Tatou,

You'll be pleased to know that school has returned to learning in the most seamless way possible. On my walk-throughs I see teachers hard at work, with groups, leading discussions, organising and developing thinking - we have some really strong questioning going on too. I see pupils who are excited to be back and enjoying their friends and classroom learning. They are all keen to tell us how the holidays panned out for them. What a great school this is!

Many thanks to the teachers for their obvious work over the holiday period, and thanks, too, to the parents who have spent some good times walking, exploring and encouraging their children. The preparation you have done with your children for the new term is much appreciated.

At the end of every term, the students in the senior team take their exercise books home, so parents can see what really goes on, see the feedback and goals that teachers have given, and to give feedback to their children. This is a true and accurate expression of how well your child is doing in class. I have looked over some of these books and seen some really good encouragement from home. Thank you for taking the time to comment in your child's books. This is what a good school should have - regular communication between school and home, and a close partnership in guiding our students and supporting their needs.

Well done everyone! Have a great week,
Alastair & the 'H' Team.

Mask Wearing

As you know, the rules for students wearing masks at school have changed. This is now optional. It is also optional for our staff to wear masks. That said, masks are still recommended and are one of the tools we have to prevent the transmission of COVID. Parents - you do not need to wear a mask when you're on the school grounds, but we ask that you put one on if you are coming into the office, classrooms, or attending assembly. A reminder that students who are aged 12+ still need to wear their masks on the bus. Thank you for your support.

Assemblies

Weekly assemblies will begin this week on Friday, starting at 2.30pm sharp, with Room 8 hosting the first assembly. We ask parents and friends to be **seated before 2.30** to avoid disruption to the children's presentations. If you arrive after this, please wait in the foyer until the person speaking/item has finished. We appreciate you taking your toddlers outside when they've had enough too! Thank you.

Skateboarding

Our skateboarding sessions start on Thursday. So exciting! All students in Rooms 3-8 are involved in this. The cost is \$5 per student. This is due on Thursday. Thanks to those who have paid already. A reminder that covered shoes need to be worn every Thursday for the next four weeks.

Physical Education

Te Reo Kori will be our PE focus for the first 5 weeks of this term. This will involve learning in poi, te rakau, Māori games, dance and waiata.

Technology

A reminder that our Tech programme for our Year 7 and 8 students starts this week on Friday and the \$50 fee must be paid by then. Students will be given details in class about what they'll be doing. Our activities are hard materials (woodwork) with Mr Stoneley, food technology with Mrs Barnes, soft materials (knitting) with Mrs Wasley, printmaking with Mrs Linklater and Sphero robotics with Miss Simpson.

COVID Statistics

At the end of last term, we had a chance to analyse some data - and it makes for some very interesting reading!

- TOTAL ROLL AT END OF TERM: 189
- NUMBER OF FAMILIES: 121
- NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO TESTED POSITIVE: 50
- NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE HAD TO ISOLATE: 89
- NUMBER OF HOME LEARNING PACKS DELIVERED: 60
- NUMBER OF STAFF WHO HAVE HAD TO ISOLATE: 2
- NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE HAD TO ISOLATE PER CLASS:
 - R1 4/9
 - R2 4/17
 - R3 12/24
 - R4 16/26
 - R5 9/24
 - R6 14/23
 - R7 17/29
 - R8 15/32
- NUMBER OF DAYS WHERE ALL STUDENTS WERE PRESENT AT SCHOOL:
 - R1 16
 - R2 10
 - R3 9
 - R4 14
 - R5 10
 - R6 9
 - R7 1
 - R8 5

This all makes for somber thinking. We all know that being at school makes the difference to learning. The continuing pandemic makes it all the more harder. Let's hope the term ahead is far more settled!

Winter Sport

Good luck to all our netball and hockey teams as they start their season over the next couple of weeks.

Netball Practices

Our netball practices start this week. Teams 1, 2, 3 and 4 have their practices on Wednesdays after school, and A and B on Thursdays after school. Please ensure your child/ren have a water bottle, cut their nails, and remember their shoes. Students can stay at school and have their afternoon tea before practice begins at 3.30pm. Please let Paula know if there are any changes to the bus lists.

Our senior teams had a great start to their season last night - a draw for the A team, and an awesome win for the B team. Well done!

